not be permitted. In other words, if there is a owner of a patent in some other country, if some multinational produces the same product in India, the export will not be allowed out of India of that product. Is it true? And if it is true, what is the present status on that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, the position which the hon. Member has said is not correct.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, I would like to say that so far we are having the process patent in India. And for the first time, the product patent is going to be introduced. What I am trying to ask you is that when you are going to set up an Expert Committee, how you are going to ensure that the indigenous industry in Ayurvedic sector is protected? I am specially referring to 'neem' and Ayurvedi sector where we have been making a lot of products, but we have never taken any patent on that because it was done by very small manufacturers. My question is: Can we have an assurance that while granting product patent for products of Ayurveda and 'neem', this will be taken into account because, I know some companies of America are wanting.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief. If you tell stories, we will never finish this. We are still going on with the second question.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, I am just saying that some companies in America are wanting to get patents for 'neem' products. And I know that 'neem' products are there in this country for ages. So, I would like to have an assurance that while the whole thing is going to be examined by the expert committee, this aspect of indigenous Ayurvedic medicines will be taken into account.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, so far as the areas of the Expert Group are concerned, definitely I am not going to limit in which areas they will consider and in which areas they will come out with their suggestions. They can examine all aspects. But so far as the patenting of 'neem' is concerned, what is the position in our laws? We have said that naturally occurring genes should not be patented, micro-organism should not be patented. And in our law, we are going to ensure that these are not patented. If somebody says that he has patented the plant varieties, plant varieties and others cannot be patented. In our laws, if it is not permissible, we will not allow the patenting.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, we have had enough on patents Question No. 583.

Demand and supply of commodities for PDS in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

*583. SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI:†
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supplies of sugar, edible oil, kerosene, and foodgrains for the Public Distribution System in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during 1993-94; and

(b) what steps are being taken to see that the required supplies are maintained?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Snri Tulsidas Majji.

Statement

The demand, allocation and offtake of rice and wheat for the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Andhra Pradesh Maharashtra during 1993-94 are as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

	Demand	Allocation	Off-take
ANDHRA PRADESH			
Rice . .	25.46	22.83	21.73
Wheat . .	2.35	1.73	1.17
MAHARASHTRA :			
Rice . . .	8.72	8.58	5.78
Wheat . . .	12.10	9.60	5.29

The allocation and off-take of levy sugar, edible oil and kerosene in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during 1993-94 are as under:—

	Levy Sugar		Edible oil		Kerosene	
	Allocation	Off-take	Allocation	Off-take	Allocation	Off-take
Andhra Pradesh . .	3.26	3.26	0.07	0.04	5.94	4.91*
Maharashtra . . .	3.86	3.86	0.03	0.02	14.97	12.43*

*Upto January, 1994

Bulk allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs are made taking into account the stocks in Central Pool, demand received from the States, interprise requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors.

Levy sugar allocations are made generally on a uniform norm of 425 gms. per capita monthly availability to the projected population as on 1.10.86. An ad-hoc increase of five per cent in the levy sugar allocations to States/UTs was made from August, 1991 till March; 1994. Kerosene allocation to States/UTs for the PDS has a historical basis and is subject to overall availability. Central Government undertakes import of edible oils for distribution through the PDS from time to time in order to moderate open market prices. Allocations are made taking into account assessed demand from various States/UTs subject to availability of imported stocks.

The Central Government considers the genuine needs of all the States including Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra while making allotlations of PDS items. PDS allocations are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirements of any State/UT.

SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI: Mr. Chairman, Sir. when we go to the villages,

people are saying that they are not getting their requirements of essential commodities in full. Also, they say that they are not getting them regularly. On the other hand, the shopkeepers say that the dealers are not selling in time and the dealers say that they are not getting their full requirements. In this connection, I am thankful to the hon. Minister that has laid a statement on the Table of the House. I find that the offtake is less every time. I do not know why the off-take is less and why they are saying that they are not receiving the full quantity.

Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would study the whole thing. Moreover, Madam, this year, we are affected by drought. Therefore, the requirement is more. The hon. Minister has also said that they are only supplementing it; not giving the whole thing. But even in regard to supplementing, people require more....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? Do you want more, or, you do not want more?

SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI: During the drought period...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You want more?

SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI: Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, he says that during the drought period, they are not getting enough; they want more. Would you please answer the question?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: They are not lifting.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Madam, as per the statement given; even now; the Andhra Pradesh Government is not taking fully the allocation we are making.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Why? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask the Andhra Pradesh Government.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Not only Andhra Pradesh. This is the case with most of the States. (*Interruptions*) This is the case with Maharashtra, Bihar; Orissa and many other States. If they are prepared to lift the allotted quantity of foodgrains; we will consider the question of increasing the allotment.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary; please. I think no other supplementary can arise out of this. You better go and ask the State Government and come back and tell the Minister.

SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI: Madam; though the Union Government made a policy that these depots would be given to women; so far; it has not been implemented. The people feel that women would run these depots very well. This is because the dealers have become so thick-skinned that they are not at all concerned with the fate of the common man. Therefore, if these depots are given to women, it would be better. Would the hon. Minister implement the policy of the Union Government and see that these depots are given to women.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This was the suggestion made by me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. I also feel that women can manage this kind of thing in a better way. We have no.... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the hon. Minister is not suggesting that his portfolio can be managed by a woman better.

SHR A. K. ANTONY: I have no objection to that also. It is for the Prime Minister to decide. (*Interruptions*) If the Prime Minister feels that way. I have no objection.

Madam, we have suggested to the State Governments that hereafter, they should give more opportunities to women while they are allotting fair price shops.

In this connection, I am glad to inform the House that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has informed me that hereafter, in Andhra Pradesh, they would give only to women.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This was the suggestion made by me to you, Sir, on the floor of the House. (*Interruptions*) You better place it on record that it was I who had made this suggestion. Don't give credit to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Agreed

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You had no choice.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, we find that the allocation of rice and wheat made is less than what had been asked for. The figures for Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are given. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is the second person whose name is there in the main question. I cannot allow you to superscede him even though you are from Andhra Pradesh.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam; we find that the demand is more than the allocation. For example, in our case, the demand in respect of wheat was 12.10 lakh tonnes; the allocation was 9.60 lakh tonnes; the offtake was 5.29 lakh tonnes. While replying to the first supplementary of the hon. Member; the hon. Minister said that the States were not lifting it. But the thing is that most of the time the allocation is only on paper. The demand is 12 lakn tonnes, the allocation is 9.6 nd the off-take is 5.29. The allocation is there but the supply is not available. Most of the time the stocks are not available in the godowns and, therefore; the off-take is less. What steps would the Minister take to see that the supply is commensurate with the allocation?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Whatever may be the experience in the past, for the present all the godowns are full. We are having more than 20 million tonnes of wheat and rice. So there is no question of any shortage in the godowns. The question is, in Maharashtra, even though we have allotted 9.6 lakh tonnes of wheat, the off-take is only 5.64. If the Maharashtra Government increases he off-take; certainly we will consider the question of increasing the allocation of wheat to Maharashtra.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, under the revamped Public Distribution System, the scheme was to be taken up, for example, in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh; but so far nothing has reached the blocks there. The suggestion about giving these shops to women was raised in the House. It was a suggestion made by me to the hon. Minister. Very charmingly he took up the issue to see to it that it becomes a possibility. However, the fact remains that suger is lifted and it vanishes in the blackmarket. I would like to know whether there is any answer to that.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Madam, the whole scheme of PDS is a join responsibility between the Central Government and the State Governments. The Central Government procures and distributes all these commodities—rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene—in bulk to the State Governments. The entire implementation part is with the State Governments. We are distributing all these things to the State Governments. After that, the implementation is with the State Governments. So we are in constant touch with the State Governments and we are also advising them that they should closely monitor the implementation part of it. They should take action against those people who divert the PDS articles. They have enough powers under the Essential Commodities Act and they can very well take action against those people who divert the PDS articles.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Who monitors?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The State Government monitors.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The State Government is lagging behind in this. For example, in Andhra Pradesh who monitors it? It is the Government. There should be monitoring. It does not reach the people.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Madam, today in Kerala, sugar is bitter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is from Kerala!

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Yes. The Minister was saying that the Government is having a lot of stocks, but we are not getting sugar there. In the Public Distribution System there, sugar is not found. That is one. Secondly, sugar in the outside market is costing Rs. 15 to 17. So it is bitter. Will the Minister take some steps to supply a sufficient quantity of sugar for the State so that at least sugar becomes sweet?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Madam, the hon. Member is also aware that there is a real shortage of sugar. Sugar production has been coming down for the last two years. This year the production is very low. So, to meet the requirements, Government has already decided to allow the import of sugar under OGL. Afte rmonitoring that also, Government realized that we cannot totally depend on private traders alone. So, ultimately the Government has decided to request the STC and the MMTC to import sugar. So, I hope, with in a few weeks the situation will improve.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: In order to make the bitter sugar sweet, let him distribute half a kilo sugar free to each MP!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is bad for health: it causes diabetes. I won't permit it! Now, Shri John F. Fernandes.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, not much time is left.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is still half a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: I ask about the previous question, Madam. It is almost zero Hour.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is asking about the previous question, about sugar. Are you going to give to Goa? ...Same answer. Now it is time. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Amount Allocated for the Development of Hill Districts in U. P.

*584. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh for the development of hill districts in the Seventh Five Year Plan and the amount actually spent;

(b) the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh in the same account in 1993 and proposed in 1994 and the amount actually spent in 1993; and

(c) what are the specific schemes for which funds are being allocated to U.P. during 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The actual amount allocated for the development of the Hill Areas of U.P. in the Seventh Plan was Rs. 1142.50 crores including Rs. 679.21 crore of Special Central Assistance. The actual expenditure was Rs. 1213,16 crores including Rs. 679.74 crores of Special Central Assistance during the Seventh Plan period.